Rehabilitation of bonded labour in Orissa

1644. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:' Wiil the Minister of LABOUR be pleased fo state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa have received full amount of the Central grant for rehabilitation of bonded labour;

"(b) whether the grant is being actually utilized for the welfare and rehabilitation *of* bonded labour; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA); (a) to (c) Expenditure on the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour is shared on a matching basis between the State, and she Central Government. Amounts released *to t*he Orissa Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme as Central share during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount of grant (Rs. in lakhs)
1983—84	7.67
1984—85	302'44
1985-86	70-03
TOTAL	380-14

To ensure that the grant is used [for the purpose for which it was released, the Central Government insists on submission of Utilisation Certificates by the State Governments in respect of the amounts released in the past. Further amounts are not released if- the State Governments fail to submit proper Utilisation Certificates. .

Effect of forest conservation act on the Development of Maharashtra

1645. SHRl NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of - ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state::

(a) whether Government are aware that the developmental programmes in Maharashtra have been blocked due to the Forest Conservation Act;

(b) if so, how many cases of this nature have been received by the Central Government from the Government of Maharashtra during the last three years which could not be implemented as a result of the said Act; and

(c') what action Government have taken to expedite disposal of the cases particularly when the state Government are prepared to provide alternative land against froest land?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL); (a) Government are aware that decisions under the Forest (Conservation) Act in respect of some development works m Maharashtra have been delayed because the State's proposals were incomplete.

(b) Out of 109 proposals for diversion of forest lands received from 1-1-1984 to 31-12-1986 from the State Govemment of Maharashtra, 65 have been ap proved, 6 not approved, 7 with-drawn and 25 closed on account of non-submis sion of essential information by the State Government. Only 6 proposals are pend ing for decision.

(c) Comprehensive guidelines have been sent to the State Government in regard to formulation of proposals for diversion of forest lands, if a proposal contains all the required information, a decision is taken expeditiously.

Import of printing machines under OGL

1646. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what category of printing machines were permitted to be imported under open general licence during the import policy period, 1984-85;

(b) whether it is a fact that the machines with' a capacity of less than 35,000 copies per hour only were allowed to be imported under the said policy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Traders Pvt. Ltd. had imported 14 printing units of higher capacity than permissible under the policy period of 1984-85; and

(d) whether such an import is in vio lation of the relevant import policy; if so, -what action has been taken against the said firm?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER); (a) and (b) 21 types of printing machines were permitted for import under the Open General Licence during the import policy period 1984-85. Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to Entry No. 12(18) Of Appendix-1 Part-B of Import Export Policy, 1984-85 which reads as under:—

"Web-fed high sPeedd letter press rotary and Offset rotary printing machines having output of more than 35,000 composite impressions or copies per hour".

Printing machines with capacity more than 35,000 composite impression or copies per hour were allowed under Open General Licence subject to the Actual User Conditions laid down therein.

(c) Government have not received 'any such information. In the absence of com plete address of the firm it is not possi ble to verify the facts in this regard.

(d) Question does not arise.

Annual imports of aluminium and steel

1647. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average annual import of aluminium and special steel by the MMTC in terms of tonnes and value;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the 100 per cent export-oriented units, the produc.

tion cost of the unit would normally be at par with the international production cost; and

(c) whether Government have considered to establish 100 per cent E.O.U. by MMTC or other public sector undertakings to serve as the captive unit for meeting the import ueeds of the MMTC in respect of the above two items, especially in view of ample availability of these two ores in India; if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) An-" nual average import of aluminium and steel by MMTC in terms of quality and value is given below:—

	Qty. (in metric tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
Aluminium	39,729	6,183
Steel	6,14,201	25,756

(b) Due to the grant of certain incentives to 100 per cent export-oriented units, it is expected that their cost of production is such as to render the products competitive in the international market. However, since cost of production: would depend on several Variables such as labour wages, overheads, economies of scale etc., it is not possible to say that product costs in export-oriented units would normally be at par with international production costs.

(c) No, Sir. The question of setting up of 100 per cent EOU for production ol special steel & aluminium and meeting the import needs of the MMTC for these two items are entirely unrelated. 100 per cent EOUs are meant only for exports. With the increase in indigenous capacity for production of aluminium, India is expected to be a surplus producer of aluminium in 1988-89, and there will be no need for imports. As regards setting up Of unit to produce special steel,